

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FRAMEWORK

The upper Missouri River reservoirs and associated river fisheries are some of the most heavily fished waters in Montana accounting for roughly 10 percent of the total annual statewide angling pressure. Because of the system's proximity to Bozeman, Great Falls, Butte, Missoula and Helena, recreational use of the reservoirs will continue to grow as the fisheries become even more integral to the quality of life for those who live and recreate in Lewis and Clark and Broadwater counties.

This document supports a common goal to “provide a cost-effective, quality multi-species fisheries by applying adaptive and responsive management strategies.” Annually, FWP will evaluate fisheries population trends throughout the plan area, consider potential management changes, and report potential management changes to an FWP Fish and Wildlife Commission appointed Citizens Advisory Committee.

Citizen Advisory Committee Structure

The FWP Fish and Wildlife Commission will appoint a 5-member Citizen Advisory Committee each February to function in an advisory capacity to FWP for fisheries management decisions throughout the plan area.

The Citizen Advisory Committee will consist of no more than one advocate from 5 of the following stakeholder groups:

- Unaffiliated warmwater anglers
- Unaffiliated coldwater anglers
- Organized warmwater-angler groups
- Organized coldwater-angler groups
- Ice-fishing anglers
- Conservation groups
- Kids' fishing
- Fishing-tournament organizer
- Landowner
- Outfitter
- Local government
- Local business
- Other interests

APPENDIX C

Role of the Citizen Advisory Committee

The Citizen Advisory Committee will:

- provide information and input needed for FWP to make informed decisions about recommendations.
- forward fisheries management recommendations to FWP for evaluation and consideration.

Responsibilities of the Citizen Advisory Committee Members

The Citizen Advisory Committee:

- is a cooperative effort, with all members participating in an advisory capacity.
- members acknowledge the value of each advisors' comments and viewpoint and will create discussion ground rules to encourage a climate of respect.
- members agree to bring information into the process and likewise, to communicate to constituents about the process as it goes forward.
- functions in an advisory capacity aligned with state laws and policies and does not have decision-making authority. FWP will have decision making authority for making management recommendations to the FWP Fish and Wildlife Commission.
- members will be required to attend each annual meeting; substitutes or proxies will not be allowed.

Citizen Advisory Committee Appointment

- FWP will conduct public outreach annually to enlist five Advisory Group members through an application process.
- Applicants will be selected based on the criteria herein.
- FWP will make Advisory Committee appointee recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Commission annually in February
- Citizen Advisory Committee appointment is for one year and appointees can be re-appointed by the FWP Fish and Wildlife Commission annually.
- FWP UMRRFMP coordinators will ensure that the process is timely and effective.

Meetings

- The annual Citizen Advisory Committee meeting (1-day) will occur between March 1 and May 31.
- The process will result in Citizen Advisory Committee management recommendations, if any, for FWP to consider.

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